

Message Text

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62-60

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 SPC-03 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048

INFO DOD WASHDC

HQUSAF SAFGC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12359

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, XP, UK

SUBJECT: PHOENIX ISLANDS FACILITY

REF: STATE 148479

1. PURSUANT TO REF INSTRUCTION, EMBASSY INFORMED FCO LAST SUMMER OF RADAR REFLECTOR'S NEW LOCATION ON GARDNER ISLAND AND DREW ATTENTION TO APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF HMG OVER OUR NOTIFICATION THAT THIS ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN.

2. FCO REPLIED TO OUR LETTER 17 OCTOBER, AS FOLLOWS:

"WE AGREE THAT BECAUSE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1970 AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT, APPROVED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN

1971, AND OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TO THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF THE RADAR REFLECTORS. I AM SORRY IF MISS EMERY'S LETTER OF 30 APRIL CONVEYED A CONTRARY IMPRESSION.

"THE ABOVE DOES NOT OF COURSE MEAN THAT WE ACCEPT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO FREELY USE THE PHOENIX ISLANDS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT HAS AN OUTSTANDING CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OF THEM."

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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FCO'S RESERVATION ON SOVEREIGNTY
ISSUE OBVIOUSLY INSERTED TO PROTECT BRITISH CLAIMS TO
ISLANDS, WE BELIEVE FCO CLARIFICATION MEETS OUR NES
IN THIS CASE, FOR IT CLEARLY REMOVES ANY INFERENCE FROM
EARLIER EXCHANGES THAT UK APPROVAL WAS EITHER SOUGHT OR
REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION AND/OR OPERATION OF THE
EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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